THE GOVERNMENT OF THE Human Body. A TALE.

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WHATEVER wicked Atheiſts teach us,
From *Epicurus* and *Lucretius*,
Were not the careful Hand of *Jove*
To guide the rolling Spheres above,
Reſtrain the Winds, the Ocean check,
The Univerſe would run to Wreck:
The glorious Sun would loſe his Light;
Star rudely cope with Star in Fight;
And lawleſs Comets, late or ſoon,
With fiery Tails would burn the Moon.
THUS, in the little Fabric Man,
(Let *Pope* diſpute it, if he can)
Did not ſome Governor preſide,
And ev'ry Member wiſely guide;

The Tooth and Nail would ſcratch and bite,
The Knees would with each other fight,
The Legs and Arms confus'dly jar,
And all engage in Civil War.
This Truth the Members knew too well;
And therefore ſage Hiſtorians tell,
And ancient Poets ſweetly ſing,
They all agreed to chuſe a King;
A King to give them wholſome Law,
And keep them under proper Awe:
Some call him *Reaſon*, and maintain,
His Throne was ſeated in the Brain;
Tho' more authentic Annals ſay
The *Brain* himſelf had ſov'reign Sway;
And reign'd deſpotic, *ſans* Diſpute,
O'er all the Body abſolute:
Till in Proceſs of Time the *Brain*
Grew too imperious, proud, and vain;
And wantonly would often ſoar
Immod'rate Flights, to prove his Pow'r.
Beſides, 'tis ſaid, his holy Vicar
Would often make him drunk with Liquor.
And then, (incredible to ſay
What frantic Tricks the *Brain* would play)
He'd lead the Body God-knows-where,
To hunt a Squirrel, or a Hare:
Leap over Ditches, Bogs and Brakes,
O'er Gates and Hedges, Pools and Lakes;
Dragging the Members into Evil,
Break Ancles, Shins, and play the Devil:
Which made the Shins and Ancles cry,
His Reign was worſe than Anarchy.
UNABLE to ſupport his Yoke,
They all a Reſolution took

To ſhake it off; or elſe reſtrain
This wild Prerogative of *Brain*.
For this they all in Council meet,
Hands, Arms, and Knees, and Legs, and Feet,
On *Navel-common*, where they ſwore,
He ſhould be abſolute no more;
For tho' the Body might be ſaid
To be but One, the Hand, the Head,
The Foot, the Leg, the Lungs, the Heart,
Did each compoſe a diff'rent Part;
And therefore ev'ry Member there,
Of Government ſhould have a Share:
And give his Vote, as Members ſhou'd,
For what promoted public Good.
  But as ſome Members, far remote,
Could ſeldom come to give their Vote;
Such diſtant Members were contented
To be by others repreſented.
  The *Brain* ſubmitted to their Scheme,
Howe'er ſevere and hatſh it ſeem;
And tho' much limited in Pow'r,
He kept his Title as before.
And when debating any Point,
Concerning any Limb or Joint,
If beneficial to the Whole,
The Monarch never gave Controul;
But always gen'ral Good promoted,
As the Majority had voted:
Confirm'd the Laws the Members made,
By nodding of his Sov'reign Head.
  And now the Body's happy State,
One would have thought, had been complete.
The Brain was rectify'd and pure,
The Members Property ſecure;

But grumbling Mortals, ne'er content,
Their very Happineſs repent.
They wiſh for Liberty To-day,
And then To-morrow throw't away;
Tho' Heav'n ſupplies their ev'ry Want,
They aſk for more than Heav'n can grant;
Purſue the Things they ought to ſhun,
Court Ruin, and from Safety run.

SOON after this bleſt *Reformation*,
The *loweſt* Members, in a Paſſion,
Sent preſſing Orders to the *Head*,
Where Courts were held, and Laws were made;
Bidding their Deputies diſcloſe
The Hardſhips of the *Feet* and *Toes*.
Theyſaid, They were condemn'dbyNature,
To trudge about thro' Dirt and Water;
And therefore they conceiv'd it juſt,
To cleanſe the Roads of Dirt and Duſt,
To pluck the Stones from ev'ry Street,
Becauſe, forſooth, they hurt the Feet.

NOR with more Reaſon both the *Hands*,
Sent to the Senate their Demands:
Exclaiming bitterly at Trades,
At Ploughs and Sickles, Scythes and Spades.
They ſwore, of all the Members, none
Did toil with theſe, but *they* alone:
So humbly hop'd they would endeavour
To baniſh them, by Law, for ever.

ONE of the *little Toes* complain'd,
His Worſhip with a Corn was pain'd;
So warmly made it his Requeſt,
To have no Shoes; for none were beſt.
But moſt unluckily the other
Oppos'd the Motion of his Brother;

And reſolutely, vow'd there ſhou'd
Be Shoes, tho' they were made of *Wood*.
THE *Anus*, plagu'd with Piles, declar'd,
He thought it moſt exceſſive hard,
That he muſt always keep behind,
To be the Vent of naſty Wind;
Be kick'd and batter'd, bump'd and beat,
Be often wip'd, yet never ſweet:
He therefore ſent up his Requeſt,
To be remov'd upon the Breaſt.
AT this the *Noſe* took great Offence,
And ſwore it ſhock'd all common Senſe;
So put him off with this Reproof:
His Neighbourhood was nigh enough.
HENCE ſprung a mighty warm Debate,
Whether ſuch Members of the State,
As repreſented Parts remote,
Should be inſtructed how to vote.
Some of them ſaid, The Thing was right;
But others diſapprov'd it quite.
Noſe, *Eyes*, and many of the reſt,
Who knew the Conſtitution beſt,
Declar'd, when Members were elected,
They never ought to be directed
By thoſe below, whoſe Want of Skill
Could not diſtinguiſh Good from Ill.
Some, joking, ſaid, The *Noſe* would ſcarce
Receive Inſtructions from the ****.
THE *Ribs* (the Lord knows for what Reaſon;
For, ſure, they ne'er ſpoke out of Seaſon
So much as now) diſputed long,
And veh'mently againſt the *Tongue*.
Nay, tho' it ſerv'd 'em at their Need,
Did many Cauſes for 'em plead;

Was always ready to obey 'em,
Said Things as well as *Tongue* could say 'em;
They vow'd it did more Hurt than Good;
They'd tear it out, coſt what it wou'd:
But this the *Eyes*, and *Ears*, and *Noſe*,
And *Mouth*, did vig'rouſly oppoſe.

* And now the *Legs*, and *Knees*, and *Thighs*,
Againſt the *Stomach* boldly riſe;
Complaining loudly *that* alone
Had all the Meat, who work'd for none.
The *Stomach* quick reply'd again,
They had no Reaſon to complain:
'Twas true, he had receiv'd their Food:
But had receiv'd it for their Good;
For he concocted all their Meat,
And ſent it them when fit to eat:
Thro' various Chanels neatly ſerv'd,
Or elſe the Rebels would be ſtarv'd.

No Muſe can give a Definition
Of ev'ry Bill and wild Petition,
Of Grievances to be redreſs'd,
Which caus'd a wond'rous warm Conteſt;
But when debated by the *Senſes*,
Who duly weigh'd their Conſequences,
They threw them out with one Conſent,
Becauſe impoſſible to grant,
Without deſtroying of the Whole,
And loſing Body with the Soul.

At which the reſtleſs Members ſwore
The *Brain* had yet too much of Pow'r;
For 'twas obſerv'd, (with Truth indeed)
That all the Members of the Head,

* See the famous Apologue in T. Liv. Dec. 1. lib. 2. c. 32.

Eyes,

Eyes, *Noſe*, and *Teeth*, and *Tongue*, and *Ear*
With many valiant Locks of Hair,
Aſſiſted him with all their Might,
Becauſe they thought him in the Right.
To hinder this, the Patriot-Members
Blew up a Coal conceal'd in Embers;
Which, had it burnt as they deſir'd,
Perhaps, had all the Body fir'd.
Their Scheme was (had their Scheme took Place)
To pluck the *Eyes* out of the Face;
To ſhave the longeſt Locks of Hair,
And leave the *Crown* and Temples bare.
That ſo they ne'er might vote again,
Nor have Connexion with the *Brain*.
The *Brain* revolving *Samſon*'s Story,
That *Hair* compos'd his Strength and Glory;
And when he loſt it by Surprize,
He quickly after loſt his *Eyes*;
Declar'd he never would conſent
To loſe his Strength and Ornament,
To gratify their Wills: He ſaid,
And bow'd the Honours of his Head.
The *martial Curls* around him cling,
And ſwear they'll die to ſerve their King.
Defeated here, their next Attack
Was at a Part below the Back;
The *Sacrum Os* 'tis call'd by ſome,
Becauſe connected to the Bum.
Hence Critics (who admire a Clench)
Derive our *Engliſh* Word, *the Bench*.
But learned* *Chambers* this explodes;
He ſays, 'twas ſacred to the Gods:

* So call'd, becauſe the Ancients offer'd it in Sacrifice to the Gods. It is in the *Os Sacrum*, that the Cavity which contains the ſpinal Marrow terminates. Which ſpinal Marrow is a Continuation of the medullary Part of the Brain without the Scull.

And

And offer'd them in Sacrifice,
From whence th' *Os Sacrum* took its Riſe.
This, as Anatomiſts explain,
Has a Dependence on the *Brain*;
Which made it always vote with him,
And ſpoil the Patriot-Members Scheme.
Hence all their Hatred, as 'tis ſaid——
The Bill was brought before the *Head*,
Diſputed long, with Heat and Paſſion,
And then thrown out with Indignation.
And now, the Patriot-Members roſe,
With clam'rous Din againſt the *Noſe*.
What Crime he had, was never known.
Some ſaid, He was too bulky grown:
Theſe wanted one of leſſer Size:
Thoſe thought him plac'd too near the *Eyes*:
Others, without Foundation, ſaid
He had corrupted all the *Head*:
Others alledg'd, He could not bear
The martial Smell of Gun-powder:
Some ſaid, He had the *Spaniſh* Evil,
And hated *Log-wood* like the Devil;
And therefore ought to be remov'd:
But this was never plainly prov'd:
While others ſay, with better Grace,
He had no Crime, except his *Place*,
Which made the diſcontented Elves
Deſire his Station for themſelves.

But ere they brought their Scheme about,
The Party with themſelves fell out.
Some ſaid, They'd have a *Noſe* no more;
Others, They would have three or four.
Some were for one of ſwiniſh Kind,
One that could propheſy of *Wind*;

Could

Could ſmell impending Storms of Hail,
And tell when Ships might ſafely ſail
Without a Tempeſt, Stop, or Stay,
To the *Weſt-Indies*, from *Torbay*.
Some fanſied this Requeſt abſurd,
So dropt it, and ſaid ne'er a Word.
Others, aſham'd, forſook their Party,
And voted for the *Noſe* moſt hearty.
In ſhort, after much Diſputation,
Expence of Eloquence and Paſſion;
The prudent Members of the *Head*,
With Unanimity agreed,
The *Noſe* ſhould keep its former Place,
Full in the Centre of the Face;
Becauſe convinc'd that none was fitter,
Nor could they change him for a better.
And now, thank Heav'n, the Storm is o'er!
The *Noſe* retains his Place and Pow'r.
May Envy, Pride, and Faction, ceaſe,
May ev'ry Member keep his Place;
And well ſupply the Place he's in ——
So GOD preſerve the KING. *Amen.*

F I N I S.